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the independent student newspaper

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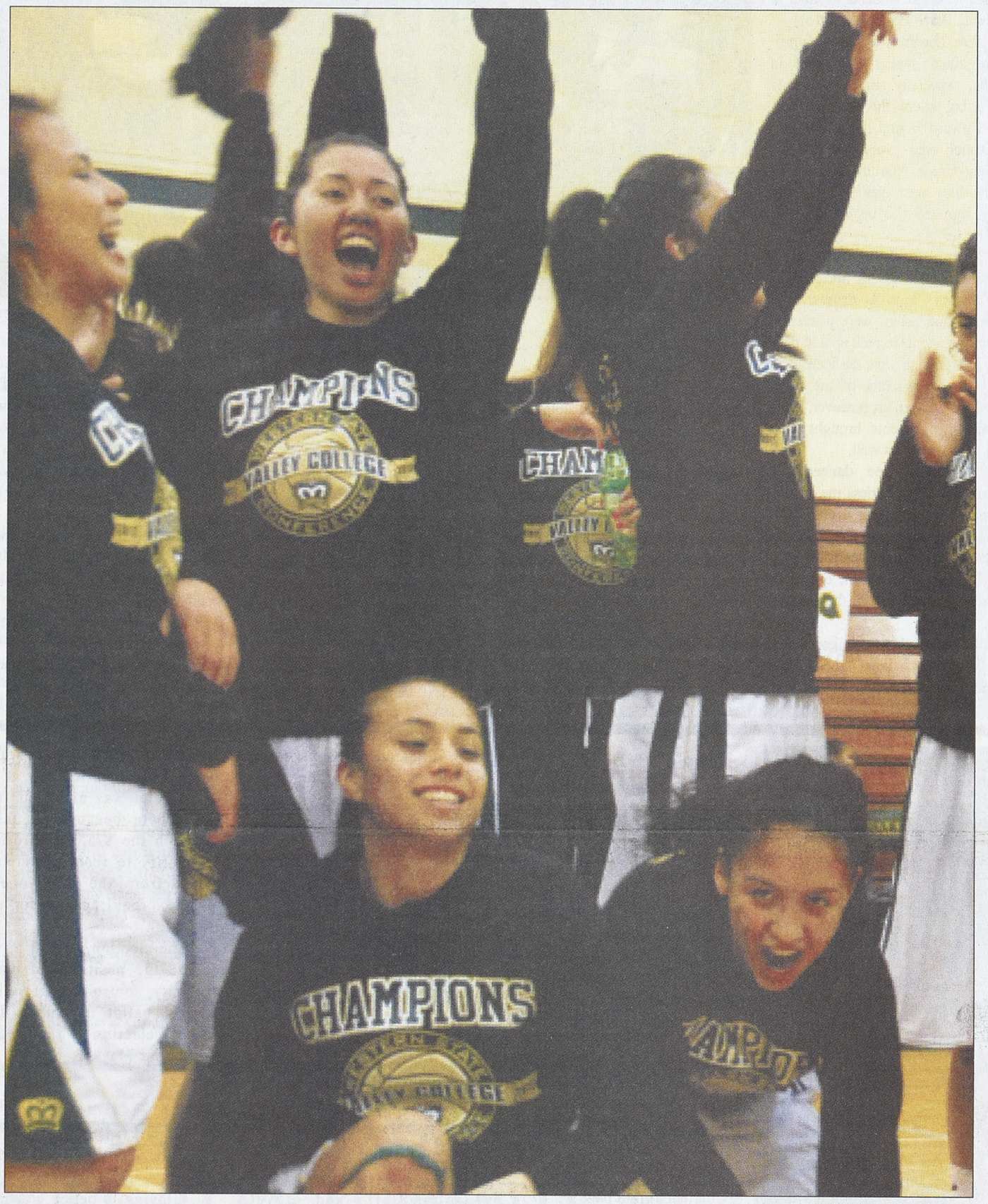
SURREAL ART AT VALLEY COLLEGE

SEE PAGE 4

WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS



ERIKA SUPLECOVA| VALLEY STAR

CHAMPIONS - After a decade, the Lady Monarchs are once again the Western State Conference Champions defeating Glendale College Saturday night. The monarchs lead the entire game by double figures.

CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER OFFERS HELP TO STUDENTS

Valley's Career/Transfer Center offers students advice and workshops on transferring to four-year colleges.

HANNAH POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Located in the Student Services Annex on campus, the Counseling department and the Career/Transfer Center are there to help guide and support students through the difficult process of transferring to a four-year college or obtaining an AA degree.

While a majority of students take advantage of this opportunity, some neglect it and find themselves struggling.

"A student came in this morning telling us he was ready to transfer this fall, however he didn't realize that you need to apply to a college a year in advance of transferring," said Rocio Menendez, a career counseling assistant. "He got angry and argued with us, but we told him there's nothing we can do. This is an example of what happens a lot ... We're here with all the information to help; you just need to come in and speak with us."

The Career/Transfer Center also provides students with the opportunity to meet college representatives and attend workshops on topics such as "How to Transfer," "Deciding on a Major" and "College Application." Other benefits include help with personal statements and bus trips to prospective colleges.

"To talk to a representative, you don't need an appointment; a lot of students don't know that," said Menendez. "You can drop in at any time and we can help you with your questions."

Joining the Transfer Alliance/Honors Program on campus may also boost a student's chance of successfully

|See **Transfer**, Page 2|

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Five Ways

Five suggestions for Valley students to earn extra money while attending school. Read more at www.lavalleystar.com

100 NEW WI-FI ACCESS POINTS ON CAMPUS

Valley offers several new Wi-Fi locations for students to use on campus.

HANNAH POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Valley College has proved that student feedback does not go unnoticed. After receiving complaints about the Wi-Fi, the IT department is currently in the midst of deploying 100 new wireless access points throughout campus to help increase signal and speed.

Wi-Fi has been a part of the Valley College campus since 2003, and has undergone several upgrades since the beginning to continue to improve its speed and area of connectivity. Valley is in the process of establishing 100 additional points on campus in order to make connecting to the WI-FI easier.

"It is a very sophisticated wireless system. We have 189 wireless network points across campus and have currently deployed 10 out of the 100 new points," said Yefrem Kozin, the data manager of the IT department.

Currently, the majority of Wi-Fi network points are in classrooms. However, the majority of the new access points will be placed outside classrooms for students to access the Wi-Fi in other areas of the campus, such as the library, cafeteria, Campus Center and Monarch Stadium.

"Students will begin to see very interesting objects outside college buildings," said Kozin. "They look like small white baskets. These are the wireless

|See **Wi-Fi**, Page 2|

VALLEY COLLEGE IS HOST TO MAYORAL DEBATE

Monarch Hall was host to one of the 2013 Los Angeles mayoral debates.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

With six days until Los Angeles' city elections on March 5, candidates for the city controller and mayoral posts met in Monarch Hall Saturday to answer a wide range of questions in front of a group of San Fernando Valley residents and Valley College students.

Five of the eight candidates for mayor of Los Angeles who qualified for the debate pitched their positions on a variety of topics from the state of the city's financial health to which movie they predicted would win the Oscar for best picture.

What they all agreed on was their unwavering support of neighborhood councils. The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils organized the event, hoping to keep the presence of the valley in the mind of the next city leader.

"Whoever is going to City Hall needs to pay attention to the people here [in the valley]," said Valley College President Susan Carleo. "We're happy VANC came to us to hold the event."

Valley residents have expressed frustration over feelings of neglect with past mayors as constituents divided geographically from Downtown Los Angeles.

Councilman Eric Garcetti and current City Controller Wendy Gruel, both frontrunners in the race, are natives of the valley. Garcetti pledged to work out of Van Nuys City Hall once a month.

Kevin James, former assistant United States attorney and political outsider, may have the biggest hurdle to overcome in the race: being Republican in a normally Democratic-leaning city, though the mayor's office is a non-partisan position.

"I'm openly gay," James said when asked about his conservative stance. "I'm for gay marriage; I'm not a social conservative."

Valley's Associated Student Union Vice President George Markarian asked the candidates what they thought the next mayor could do to help community college students.

Councilwoman Jan Perry said strengthening trade/technical and vocational programs at all of the LACCD campuses was in order, and the youngest candidate, Emmanuel Pleitez, plans to coordinate the district's nine community colleges with labor unions and businesses to make a direct pathway to employment straight out of school.

At 30, Pleitez may be the candidate to whom students can most relate. He said the average age of his campaign staffers is 24.

"The students need to step

|See **Mayor**, Page 2|

STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE TAX PREPARATION

Valley College students may qualify for a free tax return this year.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

Through the free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, IRS-certified volunteers are available without charge to support those filing their own basic income tax returns.

Students earning less than $51,000 per year and submitting an individual, short-form return qualify for the service that helps with tax advice, preparation and electronic filing.

"We'd like to get the word out to more students," said Nataly Tapia, liaison to the VITA program at South Bay Center for Counseling. "We can help them take advantage of the tax breaks available to them.".

During tax season, temporary VITA sites are located throughout neighborhoods in community centers, schools, libraries and many nonprofit social services organizations.

Volunteers provide guidance on these tax advantages, such as the federal Tuition and Fees Deduction, available to students. These IRS assistants can prepare forms on behalf of the taxpayer or help individuals prepare their own, depending on the location.

Valley sociology major Albert Sarian did not know that some of his education expenses may be deductible and wondered why the IRS does not work harder to get the word out.

"That's actually really helpful," Sarian said. "I take advantage of every little thing. They should

|See **Tax**, Page 2|

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH STARTS WITH A BANG

Valley College celebrates the first event of its black history celebration.

DEZIREE MILLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

WRITER, (POSITION IF NEEDED) | VALLEY STAR

DRUMMING AROUND - Master drummers Idris Hester and Emile Heath lead Valley College students in a healing drum session in the student services quad on Monday.

A drum circle held in the Student Services quad at Valley College Monday brought students together to celebrate Black History Month.

"We thought it would be appropriate since drums originated in Africa, especially since we're having a big event this Wednesday," said Upward Bound Director Bobbi McDaniel, who oversees the Black Student Union. "Drums told of big events like marriages [and] births. They signaled the beginning of a new cycle."

Three rows of chairs in a circular pattern were set up, and various instruments—such as drums, tambourines and bells—were placed on seats for students to pick up and play. The instruments were on loan from Terry Teplin, director of the Child Development Center; however, some enthusiastic students brought their own instruments as well.

"I'm an Aztec dancer and drummer," said business major Ivan Rueda, who carried his drum across campus to join in the circle. "It's a different culture but same passion."

Students were not the only ones excited to participate in the celebration.

"I thought this was a great idea, [so] I couldn't say no when Bobbi called me," said Emile Heath, who was one of two drum masters who sat in on the drum circle, along with Idris Hester. "The thing is, people think you need to be a musician, but your heart beats every second, and it's the same thing. We call it 'drumunication.' It makes you feel better. I guarantee when people hear these drums, they're going to be coming out of the wood work."

Keidra Morris, an African American studies instructor who also advises the Black Student Union, introduced the crowd to the two drum masters before Hester addressed those assembled around him.

"One of the things I want everyone to be mindful of is no matter what race, creed, color [or] culture, we all came from tribes," said Hester. "Basically, what this drum circle is about is getting you to remember because when you were in the womb, all you heard was [beats a rhythm on his chest]; that's it, all day long for nine months, and you also heard a pulse—a boom—we do have this pulse, and I'm going to try to get you back in that pulse."

A crowd of about 50 gathered, and began following the lead of the two drum masters. Students were smiling and moving along to the beats the circle produced.

"I'm really feeling this. I like this," said political science major Kea Bird, who played a tambourine.

The jam session lasted an hour, and the drum masters thanked the students for their participation at the conclusion.

For information on upcoming events for Black History Month, visit www.lavc.edu/flyers/LAVC_Black_History_Month_2013_Flyer.pdf

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Mayor

Continued from page 1

up and lead," Pleitez said. "Or else the politicians are never going to address [budget] issues. Ask why cuts are happening and get into the problem solving because right now only certain people are making the decisions and they're not letting all the details out."

Controller Gruel had few specific plans and defended herself against repeated accusations that she will be beholden to special interest groups that have donated millions to her campaign and to independent committees spending on her behalf.

Candidates for city controller all plan to focus on making the city leaner and more efficient by focusing on "core services" and shifting things such as management of the L.A. Zoo and Convention Center to public-private partnerships to save money. Cary Brazeman, Ron Galperin and Dennis P. Zine were invited to participate in the controller's forum, while another candidate, Ankur Patel, greeted attendees at the door. Patel was excluded from the debate because he failed to reach the $75,000 threshold to qualify to receive matching funds from the city—one of VANC's requirements for participation.

The election, March 5, will decide the positions of mayor and city controller as well as several ballot measures. If a run-off election is required, it will occur May 21.

Wi-Fi

Continued from page 1

points. One of these points costs approximately $500, and Valley will be spending approximately $100,000 for this project...The goal is to have the whole campus covered by a wireless signal by Summer 2013."

There are currently two wireless networks: LAVC-Faculty&Staff and LAVC-Students&Guests. To login, students must use the first part of their Valley e-mail address and their birthday in numerical form as their password. Students having trouble accessing the wireless network or finding their username should call the Virtual Valley Help Desk for assistance at 818-778-5834.

"Having a better signal on the campus will really help, as sometimes I try to use it and it just doesn't work," said sociology major Angel Hernandez. "It will really help me and other students, especially when your professor is posting homework and other assignments on the portal."

Transfer

Continued from page 1

transferring. The program consists of academically enriched general education courses in which both written expression and the critical analysis of ideas are stressed. Priority consideration is given to TAP students for admission to UCLA, UC Irvine, UCSC, UC Riverside, Chapman College, Occidental College, Pomona College, Pitzer College and Woodbury University.

When asked about the transfer rate at Valley, TAP/Honors counselor Michael Gold said, "Eighty-five percent of [Valley College] TAP students are accepted to UCLA every year, compared to 30 percent of Non-TAP students that are accepted."

TAP helped Michael Lopez, a former Valley student, transfer to UCLA.

"The TAP program was awesome," said Lopez. "It gives you that boost to show colleges that you're serious about your education, and that you're capable of succeeding. I really recommend it."

To find out more about transferring, AA degrees or TAP eligibility, students can talk to a team counselor on a drop-in appointment in the Student Services Annex Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7p.m., or visit www.lavc.edu for more information.

Tax

Continued from page 1

run around with pamphlets and stuff; especially since there are so many people returning to school."

Fellow student Shad Reza, a pharmacology major, was also surprised at the lack of outreach. "I didn't know they offered that," he said. "I would use it because they are taking a portion of my income, after all."

Sarian and Reza are indicative of most students; too busy with school, family and work to keep track of what the IRS offers.

Tapia asks students to bring prior returns, if applicable, and all school forms including proof of charges, fees and payment of tuition in addition to any W-2 or 1099 forms, which are available online or from an employer.

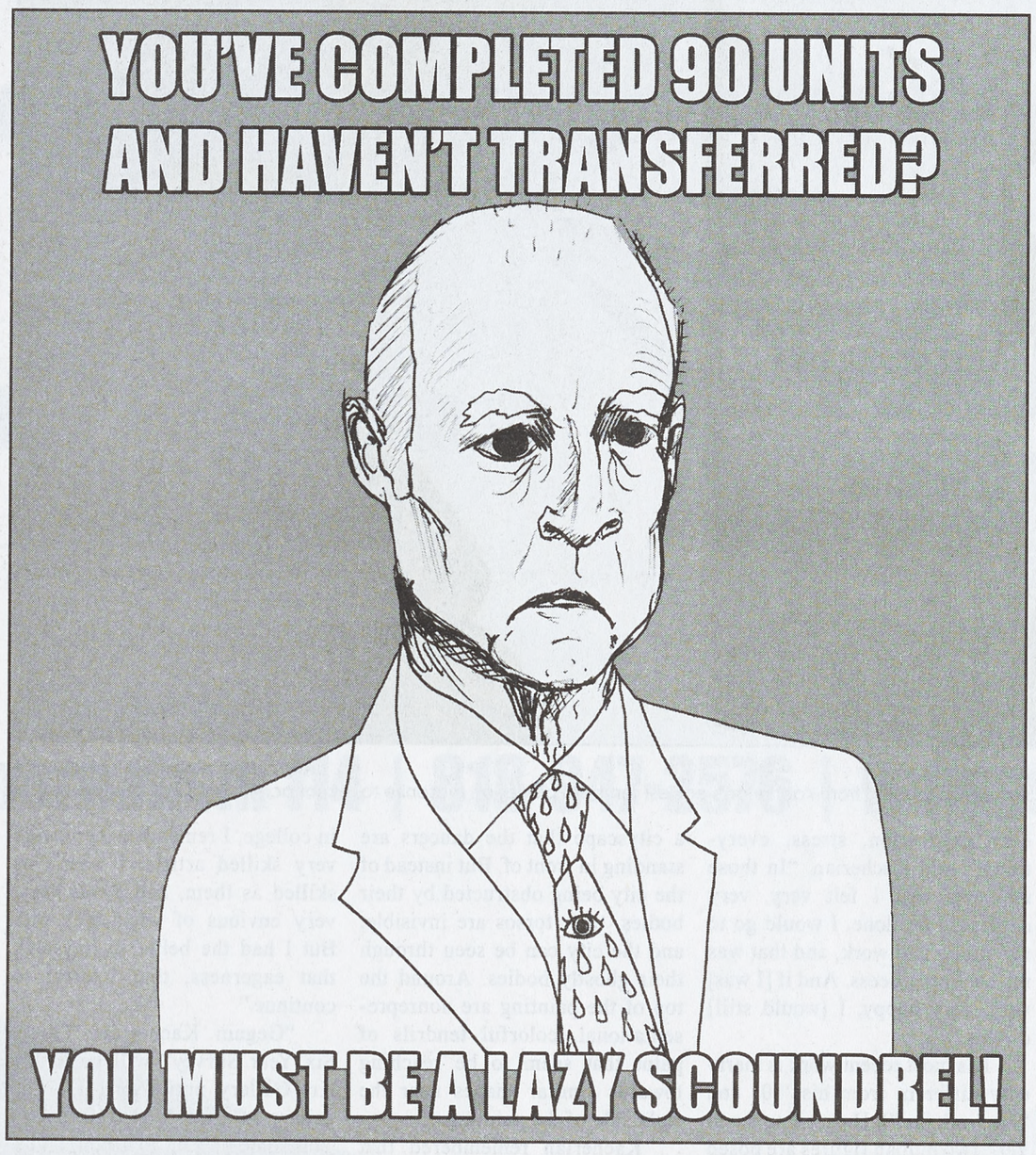
Parents of college students claimed as dependents may also be eligible if they meet the earnings criteria. Consult a VITA representative to determine qualification.

Visit www.irs.gov/Individuals/Find-a-Location-for-Free-Tax-Prep to find a VITA site. Appointments are required at certain locations, and hours of operation are limited. Thedeadline for submitting a 2012 individual 1040 or 1040EZ income tax return is April 15.

GOV. JERRY BROWN TO STUDENTS: DON'T OVERSTAY YOUR WELCOME

A proposed bill to be included in the state budget would give a disadvantage to community college students who surpass 90 units.

JULIO FLORES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR



JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

The governor has proposed a new budget plan for community colleges that includes a 90-unit limit for students. Students could go over the 90-unit cap but would have to pay full tuition, which would roughly be anywhere from $190 to $350 per unit. Taking that $350 price, a three- unit class would cost $1,050. Full time students with 12 units would face a $4,200-per-semester price tag.

Most students cannot afford that.

According to the L.A. Times, 120,000 students in the LACCD colleges are past the 90-unit mark.

If the bill passes, the college will not receive any aid for these students, and the students would not qualify for aid or the Board of Governor's Fee Waiver, which waives enrollment fees for students in financial need.

To compound the impact, this ill-advised legislation would also include attempted units and withdraws. This portion of the budget cannot be allowed to happen; it is detrimental to the community college model and for the students it serves.

According to Gov. Jerry Brown, "The unit cap is intended to create an incentive for students to shorten their time to get a degree, reduce costs for students and the state and increase access to more courses for other students."

The thinking behind the bill is that students who accumulate this many units are not serious about their studies and meeting their educational goals. However, there are many reasons that a student might exceed 90 units. For example, some students who already have a degree return to school to learn a new trade—a common occurrence in this economy. Those previous credits would count toward their total units.

Also affected would be students with double majors or who have changed majors. Undecided majors trying out a smattering of courses to find their interest would also be penalized. They may find their unit count reached before they find something they really have a passion for.

While the economy is still healing, there is a need for training at an affordable cost. Community colleges have always had the reputation of providing that. And it would be a shame for the only alternative for lower-cost education to go by the wayside.

Many students have had to postpone graduation due to not getting the classes they need—with fewer sections being offered resulting in fewer spaces available for students—and may rack up units not because they want to but because they have to stay in school longer.

Every student's situation is different. Under current rules, some classes are only allowed to be taken once if a student acquires a passing grade or up to three times if not passed. Limits are already in place for those who may take a class numerous times, getting them to move along as Brown implies. The cap on 90 units is not fair in light of so many classes being full or canceled and does not solve the problem of overcrowding and budget issues.

> **"The unit cap is intended to create an incentive for students to shorten their time to get a degree, reduce costs for students and the state, and increase access to more courses for other students."**
>
> -California Gov. Jerry Brown

With the caps on Pell Grant money and the number of semesters a person may receive it, this is already giving students an incentive to move on. The proposed 90-unit cap is just a way for the governor to say, "You're not welcome here. Please leave." This portion of the governor's budget needs to be fought and removed from the budget for the upcoming 2013-14 year.

Students must rally to make their voices heard. Two important deadlines are approaching: On May 5, the governor will review the feedback on his proposed budget cuts, and on June 5, the finalized budget is due.

ONLINE CLASSES SERVE IMPORTANT PURPOSE TO STUDENTS WITH LITTLE TIME

A quality education is still available to those with busy personal and professional lives, via online courses.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITER

Online classes often get a bad reputation for being easier or of unequal educational value as face-to-face classes. While students may enroll in online courses for an "easier" class, they soon realize the amount of determination and discipline needed to succeed.

According to the website Virtual Valley, "Online classes may even require more weekly work and are similarly challenging to on-campus classes." Face-to-face classes may give students the ability to interact in person; however, online classes require students to participate in class discussions each week, which is not always the case in on-campus courses.

Most classes require each student to submit at least one entry into a discussion and at least one reply to another student's entry. This creates engagement between students and instructors without the discomfort some students face with verbally participating in classrooms.

"A well-managed online course encourages interaction with the content of the course and the very powerful peer-to-peer interaction," said speech instructor Jim Marteney, "I call this 'tribal learning,' where students exchange insights and what they have researched."

In online classes, students can review videos and material posted more than once before moving on, allowing them to spend as much time as they need to feel comfortable with the lesson. "There is also abundant, high-quality educational material available online," said anthropology instructor Rebecca Frank, "so students can explore a variety of sites with different ways of presenting the same information."

A recent report on online education conducted by SRI International for the Department of Education found that, "On average, students in online learning conditions performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction."

Students who need to fit education around personal and professional schedules can access the online class any time or anywhere.

"Online classes are convenient because you can make your own schedule," said journalism major Edward Ruano, who took oceanography online while studying abroad in the United Kingdom. "It was a cool opportunity I wouldn't have been able to do without the use of online classes."

While courses on campus are still an important part of education, online classes may be becoming a competitor for students to use to their benefit.

VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ONLINE CLASSES VERSUS ON-CAMPUS CLASSES?

"I like on-campus classes. I'm not good with computers and the classroom ... is great if you have questions."

-ERIC LEDESMA
NURSING

"I did online classes ... You don't always get a good grasp on the material and ... have to re-take classes ... to get a better understanding."
-JAMES KEEPING
BIOLOGY

"Campus classes are better but the offerings are a little limited right now.."

-FLORA BARRON
BUSINESS

"I don't think online classes help as much and people tend to procrastinate."

-XOCHITL DE GERONIMO
COMPUTER ENGINEERING

"I'm for on-campus classes because you can ask questions face to face and the experience is much more personal."
- RONALD RAMOS JR.
SPORTS MANAGEMENT

PHOTOS BY JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR

STRAYS FACE GRIM FUTURE

Animal welfare organizations strive to decrease the number of healthy animals killed by shelters.

BRITTANY BAGWELL
STAFF WRITER

Every semester Valley College ushers in new faces to campus—cute, whiskered ones. These cats are abandoned at Valley by people who do not want to surrender them to animal control. Their fears about the pound are not unfounded. Most of the animals surrendered to the county will be euthanized.

The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 6 to 8 million dogs and cats are abandoned in the United States, and of those, five out of 10 dogs and seven out of 10 cats will be euthanized and rendered into tallow, grease and protein products that will end up in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and gelatin snacks. Most of these are not sick or injured pets whose suffering is mercifully ended; 90 percent of them are healthy and adoptable animals who are put down because of limited housing in overwhelmed shelters.

However, there is something one can do to avoid turning in strays and having them put down. No-Kill Los Angeles is a coalition of animal welfare groups that provides links to no-kill shelters and low-cost spay and neutering clinics around the county. Los Angeles County even offers a fee waiver for spay and neutering costs for those whose annual income is less than $29,000.

Animal welfare organization Fix Nation provides free and humane Trap-Neuter-Return services for feral cats. The TNR program loans people humane traps, provides vaccinations and sterilization services and releases the cats back into the area in which they were found. This allows the cats to live out their days without contributing to overpopulation.

The ASPCA now endorses TNR programs as "the only proven humane and effective way of managing feral cat colonies." Sending cats to receive lethal injections en masse has proved to be an ineffective way of managing their numbers because they will eventually return to repopulate an area that can provide food and shelter.

Valley has implemented a TNR program to manage the continuous arrival of unspayed cats on campus.

While this humane action on behalf of the campus cats is heartening, the sad fact is they are all unfortunate refugees of human negligence.

Pet ownership is a commitment to meet the needs of that animal for the duration of its life. In the event that a pet owner can no longer care for that animal, that person should find it a good home. With all the companionship and love that animals give their owners, they deserve something better than being killed at the rate of three to four million each year.

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: **editor@lavalleystar.com** or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

THIRTY SIX YEAR SURVEY OPENS IN CAMPUS ART GALLERY

Gegam Kacherian's surreal and dreamlike art is sure to capture students.

JENNA BUMGARDNER
ONLINE EDITOR

DIANA ORTEGA, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
REFLECTING - The exhibition feautures 55 paintings ranging from Kacherian's earliest tempera pieces on masonite to recent acrylic paintings on canvas.

The newest show in the art gallery adds a healthy dose of surrealism to the Valley College campus. "Gegam Kacherian: Thirty Six Year Survey" held its opening Thursday night to a room full of students, faculty members and the artist himself.

Art Gallery Director Sam Lee and Kacherian curated the show, editing his work down from more than 200 pieces to 55 for the gallery. They decided to not display Kacherian's art in chronological order.

"It [isn't] a linear show, where it starts from the earliest piece to the most recent," said Lee. "We wanted to kind of mix them up and put a really recent piece next to something that was done earlier to … [start] a dialogue."

Kacherian doesn't look old enough to have a 36 year retrospective art show, as he walks around the gallery, smiling, surrounded by friends. But he began attending art college in Armenia at the age of 14 and has created art since he was 6 years old.

The show opened with his very first self-portrait, an oil painting he made in 1977, juxtaposed with "Beyond Patient … Grandma," a mixed media painting made exactly 10 years later. It is a dark and moody portrait of an older woman whose face has been abstracted by the dark strokes of a black crayon.

His earlier work in the show is a mix of nonrepresentational shapes and textures combined with the motif of the human eye, often painted using a mix of materials, such as acrylic paint and watercolor. In his painting "Legacy" from 1990, a mixture of shapes, body parts and eyes seem to float around in a fluid composition.

"[I'm inspired by] surroundings, emotions, beliefs, beauty, even depression, stress, everything," said Kacherian. "In those moments that I felt very, very depressed or alone, I would go to my studio and work, and that was my healing process. And if [I was] very, very happy, I [would still] do this."

His most recent work is markedly different from his '80s and '90s work. In "It Hasn't Happened Yet," two human figures are posed in dance and one figure is sitting atop a tree branch, pointing at a cityscape that the dancers are standing in front of. But instead of the city being obstructed by their bodies, their torsos are invisible, and the city can be seen through their ghostly bodies. Around the top of the painting are nonrepresentational, colorful tendrils of paint that seem to be reaching towards similar shapes near the right side of the painting.

Kacherian remembered that he was not always as skilled as he now is. "Through the years, in college, I remember there were very skilled artists. I wasn't as skilled as them, and I was very, very envious of what they did. But I had the belief in [myself], that eagerness, that interest to continue."

"Gegam Kacherian: Thirty Six Year Survey" will be in the Art Gallery until April 11. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

LAVC Events

Feb. 26
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Club Day: A Celebration of African American History and Culture.
Music, Food, and Culture Fair.
Sponsored by ASU, The Village, and LAVC Diveristy Committee
Student Services Quad

Feb. 27
African American Films and Filmmaking
Screening;"Cooley High"
Discussion with film artist Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs and Glynn Turman
Sponsored by the ASU, The Village, and LAVC Diveristy Committee
Monarch Hall @
5:00 p.m.

Art Center Admission Presentation
Presented by the LAVC Career/Transfer Center The Village
Counseling Department in the Student Servicce Annex
12:30 p.m.- 1 p.m.

Feb. 28
CSUN School of Business and Economics Admission Requirement Workshop
Presented by LAVC Career/ Transfer Center
!2 p.m.- 1 p.m. (Career Transfer Center in the Student Services Annex)

March 4 & 6
12-1 p.m. & 10-11 a.m.
Job Shadow Day Orientation
Presented by the LAVC Career and Transfer Center
For more information visit: www.lavc,edu/transfer

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TERJE LIE GROOVE JAZZ KICKS OFF VALLEY 2013 CONCERT SERIES

A jazz group plays the first free Wednesday concert of the Spring Semester.

BRITTANY BAGWELL
STAFF WRITER

Terje Lie Groove Jazz's energy never faded throughout their performance, with songs that showcased each musician's talents while harmonizing effortlessly back together.

The five-piece band played selections from Terje Lie's latest CD, Urban Vacation, last Wednesday as part of the free concert series at Valley sponsored by the music department. The unassuming group is headed by the group's namesake and saxophone player Terje Lie, who introduced songs and recommended jazz albums to the audience.

The crowd settled into the auditorium-style seating in the music room and really began warming up through the second song, "Bailout." The song was written with accomplished R&B and pop songwriter and composer Jeff Lorber. Feet were tapping as listeners exchanged knowing glances with one another, silently acknowledging their approval after each player in turn had a chance to show off his or her spontaneous creativity. Others sat with their eyes closed, nodding their heads to the beat.

Mark Ferguson showcased crazy ambidextrous skills on double-stacked keyboards, leaving the audience transfixed and involuntarily clapping by the end of his musical aside.

The music runs deep for bassist Darryl Williams, who traveled two hours from his home in Temecula for the show at Valley.

"I've been playing with Terje for about a year now," said Williams, who was the most entertaining member to watch play.

He was feeling the music, shifting his weight from side to side and tapping his heels. The feverish solo performed on his aqua blue five-string bass had the audience cheering before the song was over.

On the other hand, guitarist Jeff Richman barely moved as he pulled out a range of sound that was reminiscent of a Pink Floyd concert circa 1979. He stared intently ahead as he worked eight distortion pedals laid out on a square board at his feet.

The band's cover of Miles Davis' "Tutu" had a far-out sound to which the room really responded. Terje's saxophone took the spotlight, and the intimate audience was taken aback at how this seemingly mild-mannered group of men had tapped into such funk.

The songs did not lack variety for the ear. Notes of rock, blues and jazz kept the show lively and fun for the mixed audience.

Valley student Tod Burnam was at the concert to fulfill some requirements for a music appreciation class.

"I enjoyed the show, and I get to listen to music for class credit, too, so that's cool," said Burnam.

For more showtimes and more information on the Spring 2013 concert series, visit www.lavc.edu/music/lavc-music-calendar.htm.

JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR
GROOVING - Darrel Williams (bass) jams out with bandmates Terje Lie (saxophone) and Moyes Lucas (drums).

Interested in writing, photography, editing, or layout design?

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LADY MONARCHS NEW WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR

DEFENSE - At the women's basketball game Saturday against Glendale College, the Lady Monarchs were crowned Western State Conference champions.

The Valley College women's basketball team won the Western State Conference championship.

JULIO FLORES
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Saturday night, the strain of Queen's "We are the Champions" filled the air in the Monarchs' gym where a new banner will soon hang. The Valley College women's basketball team is the new 2012-2013 Western State Conference champions, finishing with a record of 11-1 in conference and 22-8 for the season.

"We haven't had a banner hanging here for 10 years, [and] now we will," said coach Monica Hang. "I teach focus as a coach, and this is what we did this season."

The Lady Monarchs defeated the Glendale Vaqueros 56-25 in a match up where the Monarchs led by double digits the entire game.

"We played hard, and we practiced hard," said guard Lydia Pope. "We had a lot of support; great coaching, great team, great players, and we played together as a team."

Valley took an early lead only 13:20 into the first half, leading 13-2 and setting the tone for the rest of the game.

The Vaqueros could not convert in steals or fast breaks but spent the evening missing baskets and turning over the ball.

Valley's momentum continued throughout the entire first half, ending it with a 28-13 lead.

The second half opened with the green and gold continuing to execute on the offensive side of the ball and minimizing the points scored by Glendale, giving every member on the Valley team an opportunity to shine.

"I wanted everyone to have a chance to play tonight," said Hang. "Everyone was scoring. We had a lot of team work."

Valley led by 21 points with 8:52 left in the game, securing the win for the Lady Monarchs.

"Our staff is involved on and off the court, so it's nice to see this championship come to Valley," said Athletic Director Jim Fenwick.

THINK IT THROUGH

BUSSES KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

After the death of Jerry Buss, his childrem are left with the Laker dynasty.

ROMEO GONZALEZ

Jerry Buss, the creator of Showtime and the architect of one of the most storied professional sports teams ever, died last week leaving a team valued at $1 billion to his children.

"Just knowing that he was there was a good feeling to me," said Mitch Kupchak, the Lakers general manager to the Los Angeles Times. "And he's gone now."

This is a man who made a fashion statement with his trademark cowboy boots and jeans that he personally cut at the bottom. Buss was saddened with the thought of trading Kwame Brown because watching his team play was like watching his kids. Lakers fans loved it when Brown left, which brought the team Pau Gasol and two more championships.

With Buss gone, his children are now in charge. The main principals are Jeanie, his oldest daughter who will be in charge of the Lakers business operations, and Jim, the second-oldest who will be in control of basketball operations. This means Jim Buss will be the brains behind molding the Lakers teams now and in the future.

"No one can fill his shoes," Johnny Buss said to the L.A Times. "We can only do our best to continue with our father's request, guided by an intricate road map that he laid out for us for the next generation."

With a team under .500, dealing with contract disputes, injuries to star players, and a bench that shows up to play once every full moon, is it time to panic for Lakers fans?

No.

During his time as owner of the Buss brought this great city together under his Lakers blanket, spoiling us with warm sunny-day parades down Figueroa Boulevard. The Lakers won 10 championships under his direction, giving the Lakers a total of 16 championships. The Lakers have been in the finals 16 out of the past 34 years.

It is without a doubt that Buss will be remembered as the genius who signed some of the greatest players ever, from Magic Johnson to Kareem-Abdul Jabbar, from Shaquile O'Neal to Kobe Bryant.

It is really hard to believe that the mastermind behind the whole operation left his children without an outline of how to run the business.

According to the L.A. Times, both Jim and Jeanie do not speak to each other after Jim was against the rehiring of Phil Jackson as the Lakers' coach instead of Mike D'Antoni. Jackson is Jeanie's fiancé.

There has been speculations that Buss' six children will not be able to co exist with each other and will end up selling the team as the best solution. Let's hope this doesn't happen. Let's hope the six can continue what their father started and keep the Lakers traveling on the Buss.

Email Romeo Gonzalez at *editorinchief@lavalleystar.com*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*

MONARCHS GUARD IS FIVE-TIME PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Women's basketball star was named Player of the Month in January.

JHANELLE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

Lady Monarchs forward and guard Ani Avanessian was named athlete of the month this past January. In addition, Avanessian has also been recognized as the Western Conference player of the week five times this season—and now, she has led her team to a Western State Conference championship.

"I remember the day she came to one of our games," said women's basketball coach Monica Hang. "We played against College of the Canyons at COC and she sat near their bench but wore an LAVC shirt. From that moment, I knew she was the one. She had no fear. She was my No. 1 recruit."

Avanessian got her start playing at Panorama City Park League basketball team, where she played all the way through middle school. In high school, she was a four-year varsity player at James Monroe High School. Her senior year, she helped lead her team to the CIF championship.

She was named most valuable player at Monroe and averaged 15 points a game. This led to her talent to be spotted by Hang.

"When I first recruited Ani out of Monroe High School, she was extraordinary," said Hang. "She was different from any other prospective student athletes that I was recruiting. When I attended her high school city championship game, she danced in the middle of the court after they won. I loved it."

Averaging 17.9 points per game, 9 rebounds per game, 2.1 assists per game and 2.2 steals per game, she led the Monarchs to a 6-1 record in conference.

She is now leading the conference's South Decision with 19.0 PPG. Her dedication, playing every game like it is her last, helped the Monarchs reach the top of the division.

"I love my team; when we're on the court we're so connected," said Avanessian. "We have the same goal and mentality."

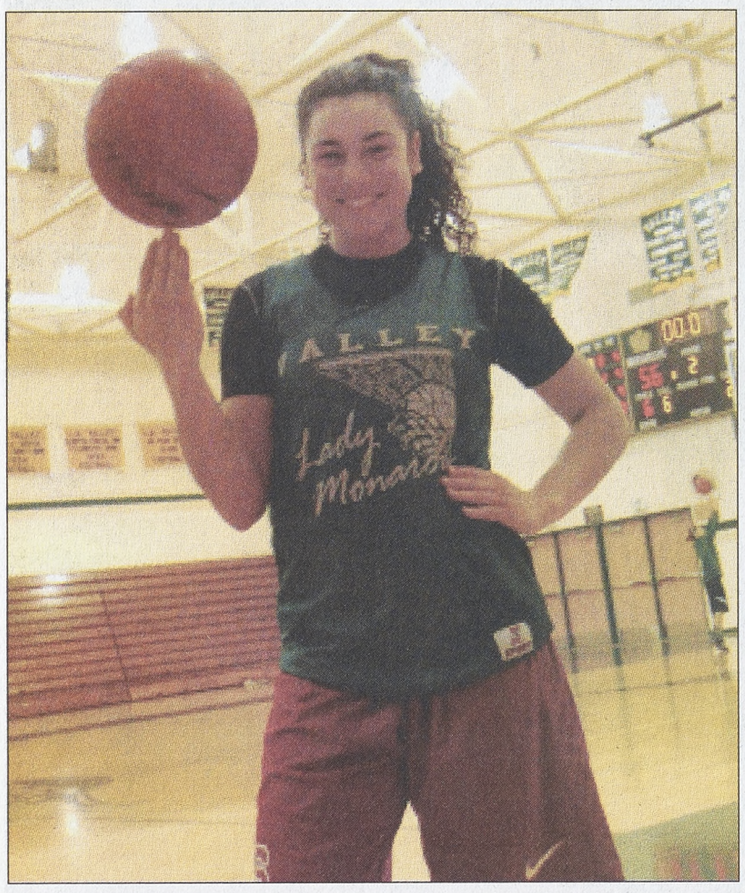
Her first year at Valley College, Avanessian received the Most Inspirational Award. Team member Jordan Santiago feels motivated by her captain.

"She's so positive all the time," said Santiago. "She pushes us in the right way, she's never negative about anything [and] she helps us stay focused."

Before taking the court each game, Avanessian hears the sound of her grandmother's voice as a reminder to wear the "Corona de Angeles"—a crown of angels—to watch over her.

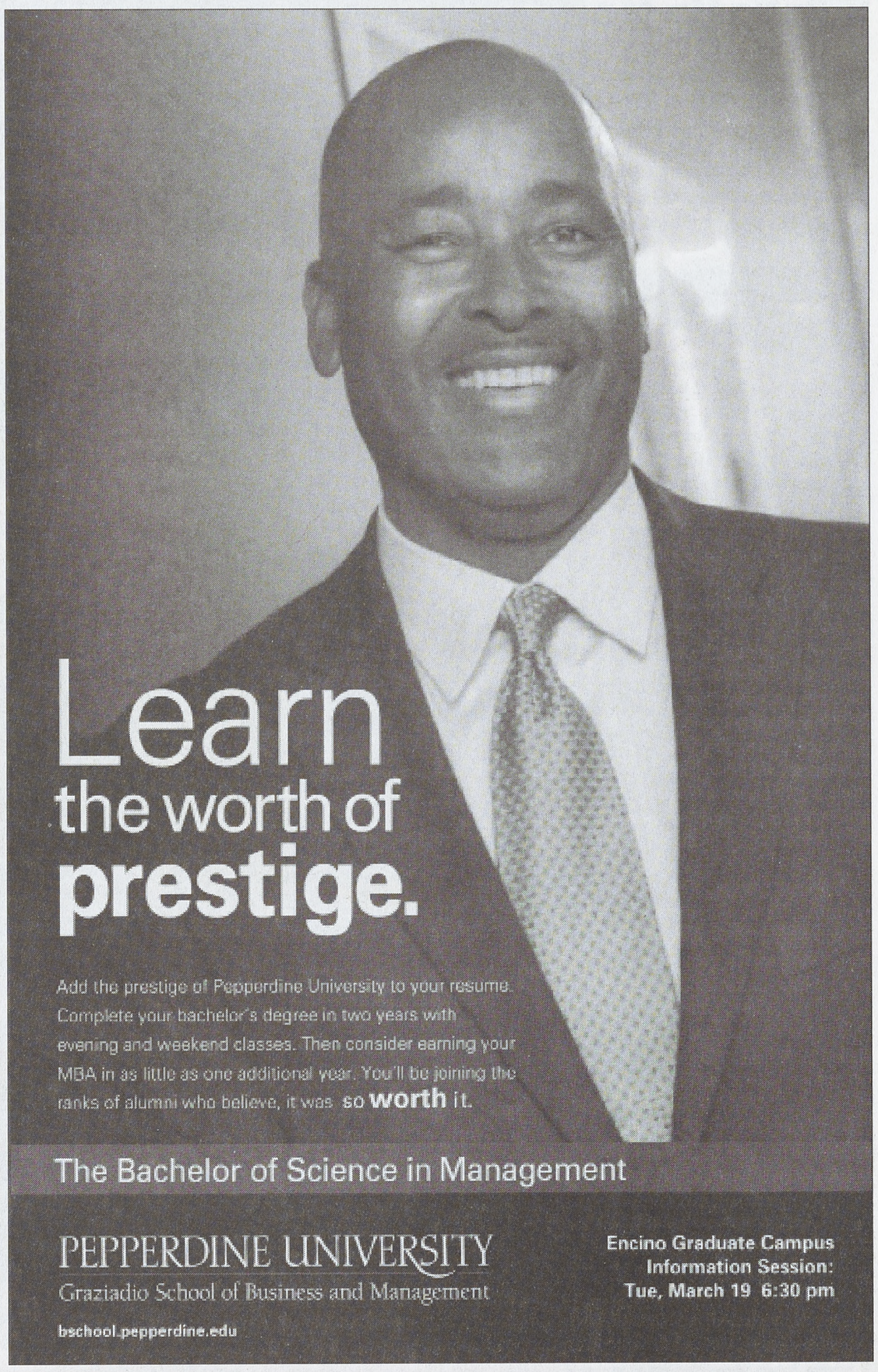
"Every game, when we pray, I always put a crown over my head," said Avanessian. Each day while entering the South Gym, the Lady Monarch glances at previous championship banners as an inspiration.

"I want one that says Valley Women's Basketball Conference Champions 2013," Avanessian said last week before the championship game. Like most of her goals, Avanessian quickly achieved what she set out to do and earned that banner for Valley—the first in more than a decade.



ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR

LOVE OF THE GAME - Ani Avanessian led the Lady Monarchs to a conference championship.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